





COUNTY BOROUGH OF STOCKPORT

# REPORT

on the

## Medical Inspection of School Children

*From January 1st to December  
31st, 1918*



TAYLOR, GARNETT, EVANS & CO., LTD., STOCKPORT, MANCHESTER, AND LONDON.



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Chairman—Councillor Major T. E. Forster, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—Alderman J. T. Hopkins.

The Mayor—Councillor T. Rowbotham, J.P.

The Mayoress—Miss F. Rowbotham.

Aldermen H. Green, W. H. Brown, and C. Sharples.

Councillors G. Bennett, W. H. Brown, J. Burgon, J. Coupe, W. H. Hollis, J.P., C. Littler, J. Lomas, W. Merrison, W. Morley, R. A. Murray, M.D., J.P., J. Nicholson, H. Patten, F. W. Plant, J.P., T. W. Potts, C. Royle, W. Thomas, C. F. Walker, C. Walmsley, and J. Welsh.

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Rev. H. McGeever, Rev. H. Sewell, M.A., Dr. E. Rayner, J.P., Miss M. E. Ray, and Miss E. M. Sewell, B.A.

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MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN  
SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Mayoress—Miss F. Rowbotham.

Chairman—Councillor Major T. E. Forster, J.P.

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Miss M. E. Ray.

Mr. R. Johnson.

Rev. H. Sewell.

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Medical Officer of Health—H. E. Corbin, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (on active service during the year).

Acting Medical Officer of Health—Winifred F. Wigglesworth, M.B., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer—M. D. Barber-Taylor, M.B., Ch.B.

School Nurses—Mrs. Newton (resigned Sept. 30th, 1918) and Miss Brooks (resigned July 25th, 1918), Mrs. Meir (commenced Aug. 31st, 1918), Miss Pott (commenced Aug. 31st, 1918); Miss Bell (commenced Oct. 1st, 1918).

Assistant at Inspections—Miss Taylor.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the  
Borough of Stockport.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Medical Inspection of School Children for the year 1918.

Owing to the absence throughout the year on military service of the Medical Officer of Health and the Tuberculosis Officer, their duties were undertaken by Dr. Wigglesworth, and the work of the Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children has been carried out by Dr. Barber-Taylor.

The number of children medically inspected during the year was 6,059, of whom 3,033 were entrants, 2,004 leavers, and 1,022 cases needing special attention. The percentage of defects, excluding verminous conditions, among the children examined was 45.37.

It has not been possible to examine the eight-year-old children as required by the Board of Education, as the whole time of one medical officer has been occupied with the routine examination of beginners, leavers, and special cases together with the work of the School Clinic.

With regard to treatment both the extent and scope of this work has developed so rapidly that the number of children treated annually has reached about 2,000 and the number of attendances at the Town Hall for treatment approximately 7,000 per annum.

Owing to the lack of adequate accommodation the efficiency of this important work is at the present time immensely handicapped, and indeed cannot be properly carried out. Moreover, the Education Act of 1918 requires that medical inspection and treatment shall extend to Continuation Schools and Secondary Schools, and in fact to all schools, so that it has now become an urgent need to provide a large and Comprehensive School Clinic embracing all forms of medical treatment for all school children who require it.

By the establishment of such a Clinic continuity would be maintained with the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee so that the health of the child would be under constant supervision from birth to the end of school life.

An additional School Nurse was appointed during the year to assist in the home visiting and examination of children at school with regard to cleanliness.

I desire to express my thanks to the Education Committee for the consideration given to the suggestions of the School Medical Officer, and to the Secretary of Education for his valuable co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,  
H. E. CORBIN,  
Medical Officer to the Education  
Committee.

## ACCOMMODATION OF AND ATTENDANCE AT THE SCHOOLS.

The County Borough of Stockport has, since the amalgamation of the Heaton Norris area in November, 1913, an area of 7,059 acres, and an estimated population of 129,352. There is, therefore, approximately one elementary school child to every 6.94 persons living in the district. The corresponding figure for England and Wales at the time of the last census, 1911, was 5.9, and for the County of London 6.08. The following list gives the school accommodation of the Borough and average attendance up to December 31st, 1918:—

NAME OF SCHOOL.	Dept.	Accommodation.	No. on Roll.		No. of Partial Exemption Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Percentage.
			Under 5	Over 5			
St. Thomas', Htn. Chapel	M.	328	—	279	4	250	90
"	I.	120	18	63	—	66	81
St. John's, Htn. Mersey	M.	253	—	232	—	213	92
"	I.	142	28	62	—	74	82
Heaton Moor Temp. Cl.	I.	150	6	164	—	150	88
North Reddish Cl.	S.M.	360	—	360	19	325	93
"	J.M.	300	—	255	—	228	89
"	I.	320	—	257	—	226	88
Houldsworth's	M.	419	—	472	43	440	93
"	I.	286	12	216	—	200	88
Reddish R.C.	M. & I.	360	—	193	—	179	92
St. Peter's C.E.	M.	337	—	306	—	253	83
"	I.	209	14	79	—	77	82
Hollywood Park Cl.	M.	500	—	401	—	338	84
"	I.	200	15	153	—	151	90
Brentnall St. Wes. H.G.	M.	462	—	517	—	479	93
"	I.	144	26	130	—	130	83
Wellington Road Cl.	M.	308	—	349	17	311	91
"	I.	127	9	110	—	104	87
St. Thomas' C.E.	M.	720	—	750	112	607	87
"	I.	324	44	169	—	173	81
Stockport R.C.	B.	226	—	305	51	241	86
"	G.	242	—	299	49	228	84
"	I.	230	58	166	—	182	81
Hanover Cl.	M.	344	—	286	51	225	86
"	I.	107	11	67	—	66	84
Portwood Temp. Cl.	M.	348	—	394	30	350	92
"	I.	237	20	159	—	161	90
St. Paul's C.E.	M.	311	—	371	75	297	89
"	I.	143	44	121	—	149	90
Vernon Park Cl.	M.	600	—	379	—	332	88
"	I.	320	47	153	—	179	89

NAME OF SCHOOL.	Dept.	Accommodation.	No. on Roll.		No. of Partial Exemption Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Percentage.
			Under 5	Over 5			
Lancashire Hill Cl. . .	M.	397	—	391	40	324	87
„ „	I.	157	15	88	—	85	82
All Saints' C.E. . .	M.	318	—	299	48	237	86
„ „	I.	210	39	88	—	101	72
Christ Ch. of E. . .	S.M.	364	—	420	78	331	87
„ „	J.M.	220	—	255	—	225	88
„ „	I.	243	38	184	—	182	82
St. Mary's R.C. . .	M.	337	—	361	41	296	87
„ „	I.	195	60	101	—	111	69
Hope Memorial C.E. . .	I.	223	35	117	—	121	79
South Reddish Cl. . .	M.	227	—	244	38	189	84
„ „	I.	141	—	173	—	157	91
St. Mary's C.E. . .	M.	153	—	180	22	147	87
„ „	I.	136	21	94	—	101	89
Hr. Brinksway Cl. . .	S.	252	—	297	52	245	90
„ „	I.	215	—	256	—	228	89
Edgeley R.C. . .	B.	317	—	345	64	282	88
„ „	G.	345	—	344	40	271	84
„ „	I.	238	10	210	—	184	84
Alexandra Park Cl. . .	S.	500	—	316	—	287	90
„ „	J.	400	16	286	—	274	91
Cheadle Heath Cl. . .	M.	320	—	333	—	298	89
„ „	I.	160	6	132	—	117	85
St. Matthew's C.E. . .	M.	425	—	342	—	298	87
„ „	I.	198	3	210	—	188	88
Edgeley Cl. . .	M.	310	—	346	—	312	90
„ „	I.	150	10	150	—	136	85
Banks Lane Cl. . .	M.	362	—	302	26	246	85
„ „	I.	124	16	118	—	110	89
Cale Green Cl. . .	M.	464	—	323	—	280	87
„ „	I.	220	7	177	—	153	83
St. George's C.E. . .	S.M.	300	—	294	—	271	92
„ „	J.M.	300	—	280	—	260	93
„ „	I.	272	23	234	—	227	88
Gt. Moor C.E. . .	M.	220	—	306	—	276	90
„ „	I.	120	8	98	—	95	89
Parish Church . . .	M.	600	—	502	—	442	88
„ „	I.	219	11	200	—	177	84
Central Half-time Sch.	M.	294	—	352	352	163	93
Totals, December, 1918 . .		20123	670	17965	1252	15811	87.5
				18635			

The following primary schools are now used as Military hospitals : Alexandra Park Council, Vernon Park Council, Hollywood Park Council, and St. George's C. E. Schools. Scholars who have been displaced attend at St. Matthew's C. E., Edgeley Council, Parish Church of E., St. Peter's C.E., and Cale Green Council Schools, the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School, Hollywood Park, and Newbridge Lane Wesleyan Sunday School. These premises are used upon a "double shift" system of hours of attendance, one school attending from 8-30 to 10-20 a.m., and again from 1 to 2-50 p.m., and the other from 10-45 a.m., to 12-35 p.m., and again from 3-15 to 5 p.m. Changes are made at the beginning of each term in order that schools taking the early morning and afternoon sessions during the previous term may take the late sessions, and vice versa.

North Reddish Council School is also used as a Military hospital. Messrs. Houldsworth's School and St. Joseph's R.C. School are utilised for the accommodation of the scholars of this school. The scholars of the schools affected attend half-time only, in the mornings one week (from 9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.), and the afternoons the next (senior scholars from 2 to 5 p.m., and infants from 2 to 4-30 p.m.).

The partial exemption scholars from the schools affected by War Office requisitions attend a central class accommodated in the premises of the old Grammar School.

The Town Hall Assembly Room continued to be used by the Military Authorities for the reception of wounded soldiers, together with the Committee's Cookery Centre at Charlesworth Street with its equipment and cooking utensils ; the school meals are not in any way disorganised.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

**VENTILATION.**—The ventilation of schools used as "double shift" schools has been a serious difficulty owing to the short time available for flushing the rooms with air between the sessions. The difficulty is increased in some cases by the structural faults of the buildings.

Hand "sprayers," for the purpose of spraying a disinfectant to improve the atmosphere, have been supplied to all "double shift" schools.

**HEATING.**—New boilers in connection with the heating apparatus have been fixed at Great Moor C.E. Infants' Department, Vernon Park Council School and Hollywood Park Council School (temporary military hospitals), and Hanover Council Infants' School.

**LIGHTING.**—The artificial lighting of a portion of the Houldsworth Schools has been greatly improved by the substitution of inverted incandescent lights. The presence of small leaded panes in the windows of this school interferes with the natural lighting.

The frosted windows in Edgeley Council School cause a diminution in the amount of available light.

**YARD SURFACES.**—The yard surface at Higher Brinksway Council School is very unsatisfactory.

**FURNITURE.**—Dual desks are still needed in many of the schools.

**SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.**—The privy middens at St. Mary's C.E. Schools and Great Moor C.E. Schools still constitute nuisances.

The washing accommodation at St. Thomas' C.E. School is very unsatisfactory. The pressure of water only allows one tap to be running at once.

### EXTENT AND SCOPE OF THE INSPECTION.

During the year 1918 visits have been made to the Elementary Schools. The entrants and leavers were examined in 33 schools. Children of various ages who were brought forward by their teachers because of obvious defects were also examined.

The occurrence of the Influenza Epidemics in July and in November-December, with the consequent closing of all the schools of the Borough, prevented two schools receiving an inspection during the year, and also prevented any re-examinations being made.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

JANUARY 1ST, 1918, TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1918.

#### A.—“CODE” GROUPS.

Age.	ENTRANTS.						LEAVERS.					Grand total.
	3	4	5	6	Other ages.	Total.	12	13	14	Other ages.	Total.	
Boys .....	6	39	644	557	301	1547	661	275	2	19	957	2504
Girls .....	10	39	584	552	301	1486	716	300	4	27	1047	2533
Totals ....	16	78	1228	1109	602	3033	1377	575	6	46	2004	5037

#### B.—GROUP OTHER THAN “CODE.”

	(1)	Special Cases.
		(3)
Boys .....		540
Girls .....		482
Totals .....		1022

5,936 of these children were examined at the schools ; 123 were special cases examined at the School Clinic.

The number of children with defects, not including verminous conditions, was found to be 2,749 or 45.37 per cent. of the total 6,059 cases examined. Of the 5,037 routine cases 39.42 per cent. had defects. A number of the children suffered from more than one defect.

The number of parents present at the inspections at the schools was 1,392 or 23.43 per cent. The percentage is poor, but is the highest recorded since 1911. The parents are invariably present with the special cases seen at the Town Hall.

Following up of all cases of defect has been carried out by the School Nurses in the homes, where the need for treatment has been put before the parents, and instruction given as to the means of obtaining it, and also advice given with regard to feeding, clothing, and other matters of general hygiene where attention to these has been required.

During the epidemics the Nurses saw many cases of Influenza, and were able to give assistance with the nursing and feeding of the patients, especially in homes where no doctor was in attendance.

The number of visits paid to the homes of parents has been 6,244. A record has been kept of all visits and the treatment obtained.

Until the increase in the Staff of Nurses was made in September no examination of the children in the schools with regard to conditions of cleanliness was made. During September and October 50 visits were made by the Nurses to the Schools, and 5,093 children examined for cleanliness.

A School Nurse has been 12 times to the Manchester Skin Hospital in charge of children for X-ray Treatment.

The tables which follow give the physical condition of the children inspected :—

Return of defects found in the course of medical inspection (Table II.) ; a numerical return of all exceptional children in the area (Table III.) ; treatment of defects of children during 1918 (Table IV.) ; and inspection, treatment, &c., of children during 1918 (Table V.).

In all the Tables under the head of Special Cases are included all special cases which were inspected during the year whether at the Schools or at the Inspection Clinic.

TABLE II.—RETURN OF DEFECTS  
FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1918.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
Malnutrition .....	26	21	2	—
Uncleanliness :				
Head .....	80	—	10	—
Body .....	23	—	—	—
Skin :				
Ringworm—Head .....	7	—	—	—
" Body .....	4	—	—	—
Scabies .....	36	—	3	—
Impetigo .....	54	—	9	—
Other disease .....	—	—	—	—
Eye :				
Defective vision and squint .....	760	88	306	18
External eye disease ..	153	15	33	—
Ear :				
Defective hearing .....	256	19	120	9
Ear disease .....	166	2	63	—
Teeth :				
Dental disease .....	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat :				
Enlarged tonsils .....	253	95	58	16
Adenoids .....	56	9	31	—
Enlar. tonsils & adenoids	46	10	22	—
Defective speech .....	142	3	22	—
Heart and Circulation :				
Heart disease—				
Organic .....	52	11	20	—
Functional .....	24	24	9	—
Anæmia .....	85	19	18	1
Lungs :				
Pulmonary tuberculosis				
Definite .....	14	—	20	—
Suspected .....	30	8	19	—
Chronic bronchitis ..	50	14	22	1
Other disease .....	67	15	1	—
Nervous System :				
Epilepsy .....	15	—	10	—
Chorea .....	6	—	11	1
Other disease .....	—	—	4	—
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis				
Glands .....	12	4	10	—
Bones and joints .....	5	1	8	—
Other forms .....	—	—	6	—
Rickets .....	38	1	17	3
Deformities .....	41	—	19	—
Other defects or diseases ..	674	207	200	32

TABLE III.  
NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
IN THE AREA IN 1918.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind, including partially blind.	Attending Public Elementary Schools .... Attending Certified Schools for the Blind.... Not at School .....	1 7 —	2 3 1	3 10 2
Deaf and dumb, including partially deaf.	Attending Public Elementary Schools.... Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf.... Not at School .....	1 5 —	1 6 —	2 11 —
Mentally deficient:— Feeble-minded, ....	Attending Public Elementary Schools.... Attending Certified Schools for Mentally- defective Children .....	29 3	17 2	46 5
	Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year .....	—	—	—
	Not at School .....	6	3	9
Imbeciles .....	At School .....	1	1	2
	Not at School .....	1	1	2
Idiots .....	.....	—	—	—
Epileptics .....	Attending Public Elementary Schools .... Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics .. Not at School .....	15 1 3	11 — 1	26 — 4
Physically defective- Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools .... Attending Certified Schools for Physically- defective Children .....	21 1	18 —	39 1
	Not at School .....	20	23	43
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools .... Attending Certified Schools for Physically- defective Children .....	15 —	17 —	32 —
	Not at School .....	17	19	36
Cripples other than Tubercular.	Attending Public Elementary Schools .... Attending Certified Schools for Physically- defective Children .....	21 —	23 —	44 —
	Not at School .....	4	4	8
Dull or Backward*	Retarded 2 years ....., Retarded 3 years .....	382 105	313 93	695 198

\* Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1918.

Condition.	No. of defects found for which treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Results of treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated.
	From previous year.	New.	Total.			Reme- died.	Im- proved.	Un- chang'd		
<b>Cleanliness—</b>										
Of Head ....	—	90	90	—	90	90	—	—	—	100
Of Body ....	—	6	6	—	6	6	—	—	—	100
Nutrition ....	—	40	40	3	37	13	23	1	—	92.5
Nose and Throat	103	751	854	249	387	240	123	24	218	45.31
External Eye Disease	4	155	159	10	146	63	83	—	3	90.82
Ear Disease ....	9	195	204	16	181	98	78	5	7	88.72
Teeth....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart & Circulation	67	249	316	35	272	38	224	10	9	86.07
Lungs ....	24	243	267	29	231	68	144	19	7	86.51
Nervous System ..	1	68	69	15	50	11	37	2	4	72.46
Skin ....	9	111	120	5	112	96	16	—	3	93.33
Rickets ....	3	39	42	16	24	6	16	2	2	57.14
Deformities ....	4	75	79	9	49	14	32	3	21	62.02
<b>Tuberculosis—</b>										
Non-pulmonary.	12	40	52	5	45	7	30	8	2	86.54
Speech ....	30	188	218	—	—	—	—	—	218	00
Mental Condition..	35	198	233	—	—	—	—	—	233	00
Vision and Squint.	167	1,033	1,200	303	743	639	66	38	154	61.91
Hearing.....	66	309	375	55	283	96	178	9	37	75.46
Miscellaneous ....	1	96	97	4	89	61	28	—	4	91.75
<b>Total ....</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>3,886</b>	<b>4,421</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>2,745</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>62.09</b>

TABLE V.—INSPECTION, TREATMENT, &amp;c., OF CHILDREN DURING 1918.

(1) The total number of Children medically inspected (whether Code Group, Special or Ailing Child) .....	6,059
(2) The number of Children in (1) suffering from defects (other than Uncleanliness or Defective Clothing or Footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment) .....	554
(3) The number of Children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding Uncleanliness, Defective Clothing, &c.) .....	2,749
(4) The number of Children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding Uncleanliness, Defective Clothing, &c.) .....	2,045

## EXCLUSIONS.

During the year 926 children were excluded from School for varying periods of time. This number includes cases which were excluded at the School Inspections and also cases seen at the Clinics.

Scabies .....	172
Ringworm of Scalp .....	61
"    Body .....	35
Skin Diseases other than Ringworm and Scabies ..	247
Verminous Conditions .....	125
Infectious Diseases.....	40
Eye Disease.....	47
Ear Disease.....	17
Nervous Diseases .....	25
Phthisis .....	1
Chest Diseases other than Phthisis.....	25
Heart Disease and Rheumatism.....	24
Anæmia, Debility, and Suspected Tuberculosis .....	41
Tuberculous Conditions Other than Phthisis .....	8
Tonsillitis.....	3
Mental Defect.....	2
Various .....	53
 Total .....	 926

## CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

3.75 per cent. of the routine cases are recorded as having unsatisfactory footgear, whilst last year the percentage was 5.32.

3.8 per cent. of the routine cases are recorded as having unsatisfactory clothing.

## CLOG FUND.

The Clog Fund, discontinued during 1914-1915, was re-opened in 1916. An appeal was made in December, 1917, for further contributions. £68. 15s. 11d. was received up to December, 1918. The expenditure in clogs during the year was £72. 16s. 8d. The price of clogs is now 7s. 6d. per pair; in 1914 it was from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 10d. The fund is entirely dependent on voluntary subscriptions, and the Education Department administer the fund without charge.

## VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

The proportion of children among the routine cases showing a verminous condition of the head is 13.04 per cent., as compared with 23.4 per cent. last year, and 29 per cent. in 1916. This continued reduction is due in part to the series of visits paid to the Schools by the Nurses, and also to the Teachers, who endeavour to bring about a more cleanly condition. A large number of the girls now wear their hair tied back or plaited, but there are still many who are quite indifferent to the fact that their heads are verminous.

More could be accomplished if it were a rule that the hair, if not kept short, should be tied back or plaited. Many children, whose parents have the time and means, are not sent to school as clean and as tidy as they should be. The teachers need to have power to enforce where at present they can only suggest.

The percentage of very dirty heads is 1.58, and of pediculosis of the body is .45. The percentages have increased from the previous year, though they have decreased as compared with 1916. The condition occurs repeatedly in a comparatively small number of families. Cleanliness is effected temporarily after the inspection, but the condition recurs after a short interval. These cases would not occur if measures were taken with the parents for allowing the child to be in a verminous condition, and not merely if the child is not cleansed after repeated warnings. Any bad case seen by the School Doctor is excluded from school, and only re-admitted after a certificate of cleanliness has been given. Fifty-six such cases have attended at the School Clinic, but no system of compulsory cleansing is yet in operation.

#### NUTRITION.

In 354 children, or 7.02 per cent. of the routine cases, the nutrition is below normal. The number of very poorly nourished children has decreased, being .039 per cent. compared with .17 per cent. in 1917.

It will be seen in the tables of heights and weights given in the appendix, that while the average height of the children is only a little below normal, the average weight, especially in the children of 12 years of age, is far below the standard.

#### ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

5.01 per cent. of the routine cases were found to suffer from enlarged tonsils, and 1.11 from adenoids. Except for defective vision, tonsils and adenoids, with the consequent mouth-breathing and deafness, form the greater part of the special cases. Mouth-breathing also occurs without any obstruction being present. The breathing exercises practised at school, in which nasal breathing is taught, are invaluable in remedying the condition. It is not always realised by the parents that operation is only part of the treatment for nasal obstruction, and that breathing exercises, properly performed, form a most important after-treatment.

Cases are referred to their own doctors, and to the Stockport Infirmary.

#### EAR DISEASE AND DEAFNESS.

The number recorded under deafness shows no great variation from that of last year. The number of cases of ear disease is larger.

#### TEETH.

The condition of the teeth continues to be very unsatisfactory. A Dental Clinic has not yet been established, and only in a very few cases is dental treatment obtained by the parents. In 49.87 of the children examined, four or more carious teeth were present. The teeth of half the-

children of the Borough are therefore in great need of attention. At the Voluntary Dental Clinic at Tiviot Dale, valuable work has again been done for the children attending at one school, viz., Christ Church School. The following figures of the treatment done there have been kindly supplied:—

Extractions—	1918	1917	1916
Temporary teeth.....	259	343	313
Permanent teeth .....	63	111	70
	—	—	—
	322	454	383
Fillings .....	166	202	199
Number of attendances.....	324	428	437

The decrease in attendances is due to the low attendance recorded in July, November, and December.

#### HEART AND CIRCULATION.

There were 52 cases of heart disease, and the majority of these were due to rheumatism. Anæmia occurred in 1.68 of the children examined.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Of the routine cases 0.27 per cent. have been found to suffer from phthisis and 0.59 per cent. from suspected phthisis. All cases of phthisis and suspected phthisis which were not under observation or treatment by their own doctors have been sent to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for diagnosis and treatment. Cases seen at the Inspection Clinics have also been sent to the Dispensary, and a report received from the Tuberculosis Officer.

Below are given the numbers of children of school age who have attended the Dispensary during the year:—

	1918	1917
Pulmonary tuberculosis .....	49 (2 others died)	34
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis .....	39 (1 other died)	22
Suspected tuberculosis (including contacts) .....	83	59
Debility, pretubercular, &c.....	35	16
	—	—
Total .....	206	131

Of these, 41 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 18 of non-pulmonary have been excluded from school for varying periods of time.

Although the Dispensary forms a very useful adjunct for dealing with this class of case, it in no way obviates the necessity for an open-air school.

The Fearn Trust have accommodation for 23 children at country homes and this has been used for pre-tuberculous children, whose health in consequence has greatly improved. 28 children have been sent away during the year. Two children have been sent to sanatoria during the year.

It is frequently necessary to exclude from school certain children suffering from chest trouble and debility, and this could be obviated if there were an open-air school where they could be accommodated.

#### NERVOUS DISEASES.

Fifteen cases of epilepsy and 6 of chorea were noted amongst the routine cases.

### SKIN DISEASES.

The majority of the cases of ringworm are discovered and excluded by the teachers, therefore but few cases are seen at the Medical routine examination.

Amongst the routine cases 0.13 per cent. suffered from ringworm of the scalp, whilst last year the figure was 0.14 per cent.

The number of cases of ringworm of the scalp excluded from the schools, and treated during the year, totals 61; in 1917 the figure was 80; in 1916, 76.

No case of ringworm is allowed to return to school until after a microscopical examination has been made by the School Medical Officer and a certificate of freedom from infection given.

### EYE DISEASES.

The incidence of eye disease amongst the routine cases has increased considerably since last year. The percentage is 3.37.

### DEFORMITIES AND RICKETS.

41, or 0.81 per cent. of the routine cases, were found to have deformities. These are the result, with a few exceptions of rickets, tubercular disease, and infantile paralysis.

These children attend the Elementary Schools. There is no special school for cripples.

### SPEECH DEFECTS.

The number of stammerers seen was almost the same as last year, being 37 or .73 per cent. of the routine cases, and 33 amongst the special cases,

No stammering class has been held during the year.

### MENTALLY DEFECTIVE AND BACKWARD CHILDREN.

17 mentally defective children were seen amongst the routine cases, and 20 amongst the special cases.

The number of mentally defective children in the area is given in Table III. In the same table are given the numbers of dull and backward children, that is children who are two, three, or more years below the standard normal for their age. A considerable number of these children are by no means dull, but are backward as the result of illnesses which have necessitated absence from school, and it is for such cases that an open-air school is required. In other cases there has been late entrance into school.

The difficulty in providing institutional treatment for mentally defective children continues.

The Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, which came into force on the 1st April, 1914, imposes on the Local Education Authority a duty to make arrangements, subject to the approval of the Board of Education:—

(a) For ascertaining what children within their area are defective children within the meaning of the Act.

- (b) For ascertaining which of such children are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in Special Schools or Classes.
- (c) For notifying to the Local Authority under the Act the names and addresses of defective children over the age of 7 who are incapable of receiving benefit in Special Schools or Classes, and also children who on attaining the age of 16 are about to be withdrawn or discharged from a Special School or Class.

Although the Authority have not yet been able to provide Special Day Schools, care has been taken to record the cases suitable for attendance at such Schools with a view to complying with the requirements of the Act.

The children ascertained to be incapable of receiving benefit from instruction in a Special School or Class, have been notified to the Local Authority under the Act ; but extreme difficulty has been experienced in obtaining admission of the children to suitable institutions. It is understood that as part of the Borough of Stockport is in Cheshire and part in Lancashire, an arrangement has been made whereby Stockport will be treated as a Lancashire town for the purpose of the Mental Deficiency Act. The Lancashire Asylums Board have, however, been able to offer very little accommodation for mentally defective children, as the Board has been compelled to defer obtaining further accommodation owing to the pressure of H.M. Treasury to curtail additional expenditure.

Many unsuccessful efforts have been made to obtain admission to institutions of those children for whom the Education Authority are responsible, and the assistance of the Board of Education has been asked. It has not been possible to do more than place the names of children on the "waiting lists" of institutions.

#### DEFECTIVE VISION.

The percentage of normal vision is 84.92. Cases of defective vision are treated at the Town Hall or referred to the Manchester Eye Hospital.

#### OTHER DISEASE OR DEFECT.

13.38 per cent. of the routine cases were found to come under this heading. They include cases of thyroid enlargement, rhinitis, enlarged cervical and sub-maxillary glands (non-tuberculous), hernia, kidney disease, infectious diseases, scars of burns, &c.

There were 70 cases of enlargement of the thyroid gland. In the large majority of cases the enlargement was only slight.

## PHYSICAL TRAINING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

**PHYSICAL EXERCISES.**—The Instructress in physical exercises reports that during the year 1918 certain classes in the following six schools have been visited once a fortnight: Cheadle Heath Council, Hanover Council, St. Mary's C.E. (Reddish), St. Mary's R.C. South Reddish Council, and Reddish R.C. Of these schools only one, viz., Cheadle Heath Council, has any inside accommodation for drill. In spite of changes in staff and other adverse circumstances, the work has improved. The teachers are acquiring a greater knowledge of the syllabus. In some cases good work has been done in a limited space. A class for teachers was held in the autumn.

**SWIMMING.**—During the summer months senior scholars from each school have visited the baths in accordance with a time table. The scholars attend each week, about 50 from each school, and remain at the baths for 45 minutes. The second-class bath at the Central Baths, St. Petersgate, and the Reddish Branch Baths have been used.

The annual swimming test was held in September; 574 certificates for proficiency in swimming were given.

**PLAYFIELDS.**—The Committee had arranged for the use of 10 playing fields for elementary school children where organised games could be taken. Six of these playing fields are now under cultivation for the purpose of increasing the food supply of the country.

## SUMMER TIME ACT.

The Summer Time Act which was introduced in 1916 was in force this year from 24th March until 29th September, and may be considered to have had advantageous effects from the point of view of the children and their education. The regularity of school attendance was not affected, and although the children stayed out later at night, taking advantage of the extra hour's daylight for outdoor pursuits and recreation, and the hours of sleep were to this extent curtailed, their health was not adversely affected.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases are reported by the teachers and school attendance officers to the Health Department, and visits are made to the homes by the Female Sanitary Inspectors. Handbills and leaflets of instruction are left, and any cases of over crowding, neglect, sanitary defects, &c., are reported to the Medical Officer of Health.

Each school is provided with a "Teachers Guide to Infectious Diseases."

During the influenza epidemics reports from the schools were sent in each day, stating the percentage of school attendance, and the number of actual cases of influenza as far as this could be ascertained.

## SCHOOL CLOSURE DURING THE YEAR.

School.	Cause of Closure.	Period of Closure. From.	To.
Cheadle Heath Council (Infants' Department).	(1) Measles and Whooping Cough. (2) Measles.	February 5th. May 29th.	February 25th. June 18th.
All Saints (Infants' Department).	Measles and Whooping Cough.	Feb. 18th.	Mar. 8th.
Houldsworth (Infants' Department)	Measles and Whooping Cough.	March 4th.	March 27th.
North Reddish Council (Infants' Department). Held in the Houldsworth School in consequence of military requirements.	Measles and Whooping Cough.	March 4th.	March 27th.
Brentnall Street Higher Grade Wesleyan (Infants' Department).	Measles.	November 11th.	November 29th.
Great Moor C.E. (Infants' Department).	Absence of heating due to breakdown of boilers.	March 7th.	May 27th.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMICS.—Between July 3rd and 15th, until July 25th (commencement of Summer holiday), and between November 7th and 21st until December 19th (commencement of Christmas holiday), all the schools of the Borough were closed, the schools of each district being closed when the disease became prevalent in that district. (For details vide M.O.H. Report, 1918.)

## PROVISION OF MEALS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The average number of children provided with meals each week during the year has been 78.5. In 1917 the number was 86. There are two centres only in use—Queen Street West Mission Rooms and Charlesworth Street Cookery Centre. Meals are cooked at both places and the children attend for breakfast and dinner five days a week, on Saturdays for dinner only. Meals are provided during the school holidays, save on public holidays, when the catering staff are away.

The breakfast consists of 2oz. bread with jam, margarine, or treacle, preceded on one morning by cocoa, and on four mornings by porridge, served with treacle and milk.

Meat or fish with potatoes, and a pudding, are served each day for dinner.

The allowances of meat and milk have been slightly increased during the year.

	1918	1917	1916
Cost of food per meal .....	2.66	1.7d.	2.3d.
Cost of administration per meal	1.92	1.5d.	1.6d.

The basis of the dietary remains the same.

Copies of regulations and suggestions on the conduct of Feeding Centres are supplied to the various centres. It is satisfactory to note that the manners of the children have definitely improved.

Complete co-ordination exists between the work of provision of meals and that of the School Medical Service.

The children who are having free meals are weighed fortnightly at the School Clinic, and any child whose condition is unsatisfactory is seen by the School Doctor.

The Medical Staff to the Education Committee pay periodical visits to the Centres where meals are provided.

#### JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

It has not been found necessary of late to follow up cases of children requiring medical or surgical treatment as in previous years, as with the employment of an additional school nurse, it was found that one or two visits were being paid in every case by the nurses. It has, however, been arranged that the work of the school nurses shall be supplemented where it is found necessary, as, for example, in those cases where parents persistently neglect to provide proper treatment. Eighty-seven homes were visited in this connection.

The Care Committee, under Miss Rayner's chairmanship, has met regularly during the year, and in addition to the work referred to above, it has investigated 220 cases, some of them cases of parental neglect, and many of them cases where hospital or sanatorium treatment was needed.

The following statistics for the year ending December 1st, 1918, will indicate the scope of the work carried out by the Bureau:—

No. of Children leaving School.....	1,620
,, Applicants at the Bureau.....	1,318
,, Children placed in situations .....	705
,, Cases visited by Members of the Care Committee .....	220
,, Visits of Parents to the Bureau.....	1,359
,, Cases visited by School Care Committees..	87

#### INSPECTION AND TREATMENT AT THE CLINICS.

The Inspection and Treatment Clinics continue to be held at the Town Hall and at Reddish R.C. School. The School Doctor, assisted by the School Nurses, attends at the Town Hall two days and a half a week, and at Reddish R.C. School one afternoon a month. In addition the School Doctor and a School Nurse are present at the Town Hall at the beginning of each morning to see any children sent for treatment or inspection. A School Nurse also attends at Reddish R.C. School one afternoon a week.

At the Inspection Clinics the cases seen include :—

- (1) Certain cases seen at the routine inspections and requiring further examination.
- (2) Debilitated children or children with some defect, sent by the teachers and nurses, or brought voluntarily by their parents.
- (3) Children sent by the School Attendance Officers to be examined as to their fitness for school.
- (4) Children attending for examination previous to being sent to Special Schools and Industrial Institutions.

TABLE VI.—CASES TREATED AT THE CLINICS.

Condition.	No. of defects treated.	Cured.	Im- proved.	Still under treatment.	Ceased attending.	Referred to doctor or hospital.	Per- centage cured.
External Eye Disease ..	116	101	2	3	7	3	87·06
Ear Disease .....	85	45	10	14	10	6	52·94
Ringworm of Scalp :—							
(i) X-ray Treatment ..	45	44	—	1	—	—	97·77
(ii) Ointment Treatment	30	27	—	3	—	—	90
Ringworm of Body .....	41	41	—	—	—	—	100
Sores .....	517	479	—	19	19	—	92·65
Scabies .....	226	211	—	8	7	—	93·36
Totals .....	1,060	948	12	48	43	9	89·45

In addition to the above, minor injuries and septic conditions of the skin were treated. Fifteen cases of Alopecia and 27 cases of Pyorrhœa Alveolaris were also treated.

The total number of children attending at the Health Centres has been 1,975, and the total number of attendances has been 6,730. Four hundred and ninety-nine of these children were seen at the Town Hall, but not treated.

The following is a list of the defects of the untreated cases :—

Skin Diseases .....	5
Defective Vision and Eye Disease .....	140
Tuberculous Conditions other than Phthisis .....	18
Phthisis (active or quiescent) .....	21
Anæmia, Debility, and Suspected Tuberculosis.....	56
Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh .....	30
Ear Disease.....	4
Deafness .....	25
Epilepsy .....	6
Nervous Diseases other than Epilepsy .....	16
Mental Defects and Backwardness.....	8
Febriculæ and Post-febrile Debility .....	43
Enlarged Glands.....	18
Deformities .....	10
Heart Disease.....	19
Rheumatism .....	7
Stammer and Speech Defects .....	+
Disorders of Digestion .....	7
Enlarged Thyroid .....	2
Injuries and Minor Ailments.....	5
Miscellaneous .....	53
Nil .....	2
 Total .....	 499

### DISEASES TREATED AT THE CLINICS.

#### RINGWORM OF THE SCALP.

Number out of school at the end of 1917.....	14
New cases excluded during the year.....	61
 Total .....	 75
Cases sent back to school certified cured.....	71
Number out of school at the end of 1918.....	4

The total number of cases out of school for Ringworm of the Scalp during 1916 was 119. During 1917 it was 138. The number of cases and the number out of school at the end of the year both show a decrease.

The results obtained from X-ray Treatment are satisfactory.	
Number treated by X-rays.....	35
Number certified as fit for school .....	34

In addition, 10 cases treated by X-rays during 1917, which were out of school at the end of the year, have been certified as cured.

As in previous years, many of the parents preferred to try ointment treatment first. All the cases received after-treatment by ointments at the Town Hall.

Number treated by ointment only.....	26
Number certified as fit for school .....	23

Of the four cases under ointment treatment at the end of 1917, all have been sent back to school with certificates.

### RINGWORM OF THE BODY.

Forty-one cases have been treated during the year. All were in school at the end of the year. The average length of treatment was 18.07 days.

### SCABIES AND IMPETIGO.

Five hundred and seventeen cases have been treated, and of these 19 were still attending at the end of the year.

Many of the cases of impetigo, especially the severer ones, have attended several days a week at the Town Hall, in order to ensure more thorough treatment. In this way the time of exclusion from school has been shortened.

Scabies was very prevalent during the year. 226 cases were treated, eight were still out of school at the end of the year. In 1917 the number of cases was 169. The average number of attendances was 5.1 and the average length of treatment was 56.7 days.

### EYE DISEASE.

One hundred and sixteen cases have been treated, with an average number of attendances of 6.3. Sixty-nine were cases of blepharitis. The other cases included 11 of conjunctivitis, 14 of corneal ulcer, and 4 of iritis. Three eye cases were still attending at the end of the year.

### EAR CASES.

Eighty-five have been treated with an average number of attendances of 4.3.

The large majority were cases of otorrhœa. In 45 cases the discharge ceased under treatment, and 24 were still attending for treatment at the end of the year. Three cases were referred to their own doctor or to hospital.

### DEFECTIVE VISION.

Prescriptions for glasses have been given during the year to 208 children, the number of attendances being on an average 2.68 per child.

The Stockport Blind Institution has again given most generous help in the provision of glasses in needy cases. One hundred and eight pairs of spectacles have been supplied by them during the year.

By arrangements with two Stockport opticians, glasses, prescribed by the School Doctor, are provided at reduced prices for those parents who can pay.

One hundred and twenty cases have been sent to the Manchester Eye Hospital.

#### VACCINATION.

1,668 children, or 33.11 per cent. of the routine cases, were found to have no vaccination marks. The figures for the four preceding years were 24.0 per cent., 26.0 per cent., 27.5 per cent., and 18.25 per cent., respectively.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

(1) One hundred and ninety six minor scholarship candidates were medically examined at the Town Hall. No candidate was rejected as unsuitable.

(2) Thirteen children were examined and given medical certificates for admission into industrial institutions.

(3) The Secondary School was visited and 68 children were examined with regard to fitness for drill and games.



## (a) HEIGHTS IN INCHES.

School.	Average at 5 years.		Average at 12 years.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Brentnall St. Cl.	40.2	40.4	55.5	54.8
St. George's	41.9	41.0	54.3	55.6
St. Matthew's	40.3	41.2	54.6	54.3
Wellington Rd. Cl.	40.5	41.5	53.35	54.5
Cale Green Cl.	40.4	45.3	53.9	54.3
Edgeley Cl.	40.7	40.3	56.5	55.8
St. Thomas'	39.07	40.8	53.3	53.8
Alexandra Park Cl.	41.09	41.2	55.02	55.2
Edgeley R.C.	39.8	35.4	52.9	54.1
Portwood T. Cl.	41.4	38.3	55.8	54.2
St. John's, Heaton Mersey	41.5	41.25	50.04	58.1
St. Thomas', Heaton Chap.	42.7	42.9	58.6	57.2
Hr. Brinksway	40.8	40.4	55.0	54.8
St. Peter's C. E.	39.6	40.5	53.02	54.3
Parish Church	40.6	40.2	55.5	55.3
Cheadle Heath Cl.	42.0	40.8	53.75	55.0
Houldsworth	40.2	40.4	54.0	54.8
Hollywood Park Cl.	39.5	40.05	54.15	54.5
Lancashire Hill Cl.	40.5	40.4	52.2	56.6
St. Paul's	39.0	39.4	54.1	54.6
All Saints	39.5	40.5	53.85	53.01
Hanover	39.4	39.4	54.2	53.5
Christ Church	41.5	40.7	54.2	54.04
St. Mary's R.C.	38.65	39.4	52.3	54.07
Reddish R.C.	42.5	40.2	55.3	56.0
Vernon Park Cl.	40.4	39.4	52.7	53.05
St. Mary's C.E.	41.2	39.25	53.0	54.2
South Reddish Cl.	40.3	41.03	53.3	54.5
North Reddish Cl.	40.7	40.6	53.6	55.2
Great Moor C.E.	42.1	41.4	53.9	54.8
Central Partial Exemption	—	—	53.9	53.9
Hope Memorial	40.2	40.6	—	—
Heaton Moor Cl.	42.8	41.8	—	—
inches.				
Average	40.65	40.49	54.05	54.77
Standard	41.03	40.55	55.0	55.5

## (b) WEIGHTS IN POUNDS.

School.	Average at 5 years.		Average at 12 years.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Brentnall St. Cl.	38.2	37.3	72.5	73.5
St. George's	39.3	39.2	70.8	71.9
St. Matthew's	38.5	37.8	70.4	70.7
Wellington Rd. Cl.	37.5	37.4	66.8	69.5
Cale Green Cl.	39.4	38.5	68.1	70.6
Edgeley Cl.	39.6	37.2	73.4	74.1
St. Thomas'	37.5	39.6	69.0	69.7
Alexandra Park Cl.	39.3	37.1	72.15	72.3
Edgeley R.C.	36.5	36.5	66.3	68.35
Portwood T. Cl.	41.2	36.1	70.5	68.09
St. John's, Heaton Mersey	37.5	40.2	70.01	72.5
St. Thomas', Heaton Chap.	39.4	38.1	72.2	73.6
Hr. Brinksway	38.2	38.1	72.6	68.2
St. Peter's C.E.	37.8	37.45	68.3	70.7
Parish Church	36.3	35.01	70.6	70.25
Cheadle Heath Cl.	41.1	38.8	66.6	70.9
Houldsworth	37.3	36.1	70.7	70.1
Hollywood Park Cl.	32.2	36.5	71.2	71.7
Lancashire Hill Cl.	36.6	37.6	54.5	66.5
St. Paul's	35.3	35.7	70.03	71.6
All Saints	37.03	37.02	69.7	64.9
Hanover	36.3	36	69.8	67.6
Christ Church	39.35	37.4	69.08	69.7
St. Mary's R.C.	35.7	36.3	65.08	70.3
Reddish R.C. Cl.	41.1	35.4	68.9	70.8
Vernon Park Cl.	37.4	35.3	64.5	63.5
St. Mary's C.E.	40.2	35.7	62.9	68.0
South Reddish Cl.	37.1	38.03	68.2	70.5
North Reddish Cl.	37.4	36.4	68.5	70.5
Great Moor C.E.	39.2	37.55	69.6	67.02
Central Partial Exemption	—	—	70.5	66.3
Hope Memorial	37.3	38.25	—	—
Heaton Moor Cl.	42.2	40.2	—	—
Average	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Average	38.09	37.3	68.95	69.82
Standard	39.9	39.2	76.75	76.5

